

GEORGE FRENCH HOUSE  
ALBION · ILLINOIS

Edwards Co.

HABS NO. 25-1  
HABS  
ILL  
24-ALB1,  
1-

*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT NO. 25

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
EDGAR E. LUNDEEN · DISTRICT OFFICER  
BLOOMINGTON ILLINOIS

The George French House, Albion, Edwards County, Illinois

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by Ralph Varney, Champaign, Illinois. April 1934

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George French, a member of the English Communistic settlement, was a prosperous tailor and clothing merchant of Albion. He settled in this colony apparently through the influence of the letters of Morris Birkbeck ~~letters~~, who with the promoters strove to induce men of their own social status--tenant farmers possessed of capital and desirous of becoming landholders--to take up land from them or in their vicinity. (Centennial History of Ill. Vol II Pease pages 12-13)

The following recorded deeds indicate the line of ownership:

Richard Flower, George Flower, Charles Pugsley, Samuel Thompson, Henry Birkett and Daniel Orange, proprietors of Albion to James Oliver, July 1, 1822.

James Oliver and wife to F. B. Thompson, Jan. 28, 1841

F. B. Thompson to George French, April 3, 1841.

Maria Harris et al by Master- to Lizzie French certificate of sale in partition Jan. 27, 1896.

Maria Harris et al by Master to Lizzie French, Masters deed, Dec. 28, 1928.

John Moody to Chas. Moody and wife, Nov. 4, 1929.

Mr. Chas. Moody is the present owner and occupant

Miss Lizzie French, a painter and student of art, died in this building surrounded by her works, many of which had not been seen prior to her death.

Reference: Carl T. Pierce, Clerk of the Circuit  
Court and ex-officio Recorder of Edwards  
County.

No record is available as to the architect or builder. Among the interesting features of its construction are the rough hewn walnut beams, adzed on two sides which support the first floor. The north wall of the Hall is nine inch brick, two stories high, and supported by one of these hewn wooden beams. The four inch thick brick walls of the East wing are covered with clapboards on the exterior and plastered directly on the brick on the interior. The mouldings are simple, but skillfully handled and refined.

No alterations have ever been made, only slight repairs and painting of the original building.

Reference: "History of the English Settlement in  
Edwards County," by George Flowers

Ralph W. Varney.

(Approved)

Wm. E. Lundeen

Revised 1936 by H.C.F.